

Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in Bayonne, New Jersey.

In 1860 Father Callano was entrusted with establishing a small Catholic Church in Bayonne to be called St. Mary's Star of the Sea.

Since its humble beginnings on Evergreen Street to its current location on 14th street in Bayonne, it has been a place of worship and home for residents of Bayonne and beyond since 1860.

Monsignor Lawrence Miller was named Pastor of St. Mary in 1989, and has since led with piousness and confidence as the church and the community have changed over the years.

Since the beginning of his term, Monsignor Miller has worked to engage the community in church life, particularly its youth.

Because of his efforts, there has been an increase in youth ministry members, and a Pee Wee Basketball Program was established through the church.

He currently is on the advisory board of All Saints Catholic Academy, works with 8th grade religion classes, is chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, and works at a local soup kitchen, which he helped found.

His leadership has been steadfast and no doubt is a reflection of the vibrant parish of St. Mary's and the community it has supported for 150 years.

TRIBUTE TO FRESNO SHERIFF'S
DEPUTY JOEL WAHLENMAIER

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor fallen Fresno Sheriff's Deputy Joel Wahlenmaier.

Deputy Joel Wahlenmaier was born in Bakersfield, California on June 3, 1960. Joel grew up in Fresno, California and attended local schools, including Reedley College. Joel married Beverly Barnett on April 23, 1983. They had two children, Amy Wahlenmaier and Austin Wahlenmaier.

Deputy Wahlenmaier was hired as a Deputy Sheriff by the Fresno Sheriff's Office, in Fresno, California on June 15, 1998. He had various assignments that included patrol, courts, robbery/property detectives and the homicide unit. Deputy Wahlenmaier loved his collateral assignment to the Search and Rescue team. His last assignment, at his end of watch, was the Homicide Unit. He was selected to that unit on February 18, 2008.

Deputy Wahlenmaier had a true passion for his work, particularly Search and Rescue, but was first and foremost a supportive husband and attentive father. His end of watch came on February 25, 2010 while serving a search warrant as a Homicide Detective.

Deputy Wahlenmaier is survived by his beloved wife Bev; daughter Amy; son Austin; parents, Arthur and Patricia Wahlenmaier; sister, Natalie and her husband, Jim Tomajan; brother Tyler and his wife, Genifer; father-in-law and mother-in-law Bruce and Betty Barnett; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Mike and Barbie Turner; two nieces; and four nephews.

ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE
IMMUNIZATIONS FOR VETERANS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced the "Access to Appropriate Immunizations for Veterans Act of 2011." I'm proud to reintroduce this bill in the 112th Congress which I believe would help advance the goal we all share of promoting lifelong health for the men and women who fought for our freedom.

While the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, health care system is doing an admirable job of caring for those who bore the burden of combat, continual reform is needed to ensure the care veterans receive represents the most up-to-date practices and procedures.

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, each year approximately 70,000 adult Americans die from vaccine-preventable diseases. Influenza alone is responsible for over one million ambulatory care visits, 200,000 hospitalizations and 30,000 deaths.

Many of our veterans who are in the "high-risk" category of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases—including those with HIV, Hepatitis C, and substance use disorder—are enrolled in the VA health care system and could particularly benefit from receiving vaccinations.

Commendably, the VA has protocols in place that recommend vaccines as protection against deadly viruses. However, VA only has established performance measures for two vaccines, making it unclear if protocols are being routinely enforced for all CDC recommended vaccines.

The tremendous value performance measures have regarding the increased utilization and effectiveness of vaccination distribution is evidenced by VA's own application of performance measures for the influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations. When these performance measures were initially applied, VA saw vaccination rates rise respectively from 27 percent and 26 percent to 77 percent and 80 percent. It also resulted in a 50 percent decline in pneumonia hospitalization rates.

The legislation I am introducing today would expand VA performance measures to cover all vaccinations recommended by the VA and CDC and ensure that veterans receive appropriate immunizations at the time suggested by the CDC. It would also require VA to report to Congress on their progress in supporting vaccinations in the veteran population.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring the Access to Appropriate Immunizations for Veterans Act of 2011. This legislation would ensure that our veterans are receiving timely and suitable access to vaccines and prevent those under the care of the VA from being unnecessarily exposed to vaccine preventable diseases.

THE FUTURE OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the future of Taiwan. I have been a long-time supporter of Taiwan and hope that my colleagues and I will continue to improve relations not only between the United States and Taiwan but between Taiwan and the international community. All Americans should be proud that Taiwan and the United States have enjoyed a strong and durable relationship. Taiwan is one of our largest trading partners and the cultural exchanges between our two peoples are as vibrant as they have ever been. Taiwan has stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States to combat the scourge of global terrorism; and the people of Taiwan have always given generously in our greatest times of need with monetary contributions to the Twin Towers Fund, Pentagon Memorial Fund and through offer of humanitarian assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Taiwan and the United States are not merely allies; we are friends and partners in the truest sense of the words.

But, I think it would be fair to say that Taiwan's future is uncertain. Just yesterday, Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou took part in a video conference with the Center for Strategic and International Studies to discuss Taiwan's vision for the future of the Republic of China's National Security. I include a copy of President Ma Ying-jeou's speech into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. And I urge my colleagues to read the remarks because whatever the future holds of Taiwan, I believe that the people of Taiwan deserve to have a voice in shaping that future.

BUILDING NATIONAL SECURITY FOR THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

President Hamre, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

It gives me great pleasure to be addressing my friends at the Center for Strategic and International Studies once again. We last met two years ago on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, a milestone in the history of the Republic of China on Taiwan. And this year, after a long journey of blood, toil, tears and sweat, the Republic of China is achieving a greater milestone, its centennial anniversary. This year also marks the third year of my presidency. Therefore, it is time I shared with you how I am building three lines of defense for the ROC's national security, so as to ensure its longevity for many more centuries to come. These three lines of defense are institutionalizing the Cross-Strait rapprochement, enhancing Taiwan's contributions to international development and aligning defense with diplomacy.

THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CROSS-STRAIT RAPPROCHEMENT

The Cross-Strait rapprochement that began three years ago continues to bear fruit and increase regional peace and stability. We witness this in so many aspects of our society. The arrival of nearly three million mainland Chinese visitors has created a tourism boom in Taiwan almost 10 times than before. The increase in Cross-Strait trade also boosted Taiwan's total trade volume to a record high of 526 billion US dollars in 2010. Since the Cross-Strait Judicial Mutual Assistance Agreement was signed in